

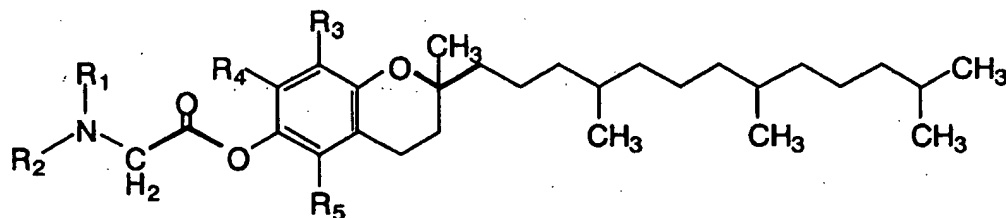
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A whitening cosmetic composition characterized by comprising a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof.

2. (original): The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a compound represented by a formula (1) described below:



wherein R₁ and R₂ represent the same or different lower alkyl group or a hydrogen atom; and R₃, R₄, and R₅ represent a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; with the proviso that R₁ and R₂ do not represent a hydrogen atom at the same time.

3. (original): The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is at least one compound selected from an α -tocopherol alkylglycine ester, a γ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester, and a δ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

4. (original): The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is an α -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

5. (original): The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 4, characterized in that the α -tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a dl- α -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

6. (original): The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 4, characterized in that the α -tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a d- α -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

7. (original): The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a γ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

8. (original): The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 7, characterized in that the γ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a d- γ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

9. (original): The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a δ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

10. (original): The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 9, characterized in that the δ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a d- δ -tocopherol alkylglycine ester.

11. (original): The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the tocopherol alkylglycine ester is tocopherol dimethylglycine ester.

12. (original): The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the salt of a tocopherol alkylglycine ester is a salt of an organic acid or an inorganic acid.

13. (original): The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 12, wherein the salt of a tocopherol alkylglycine ester is hydrochloride.

14. (original): The whitening cosmetic composition according to Claim 1, wherein an added amount of the tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or the salt thereof ranges from 0.1 to 10% by mass.

15. (currently amended): A method for preventing or eliminating pigmentation of the skin, ~~wherein comprising preventing or eliminating pigmentation of the skin with a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof is employed.~~

16. (currently amended): ~~Use~~A method of using a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof, comprising applying a composition containing a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof for preventing or eliminating pigmentation of the skin.

17. (currently amended): ~~Use~~A method of using a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof ~~for preparation of~~ comprising preparing a pharmaceutical agent with a tocopherol alkylglycine ester and/or a salt thereof for use in preventing or eliminating pigmentation of the skin.